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00-3036

27 April 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Conversation with Mansfield Sprague
Concerning NSC 5412

1. This memorandum is for the information of the Director.
2. Tom Parrott advised me that at the last meeting of the Special Group, Mr. Gordon Gray referred to a request which he had received from the staff of the Sprague Committee for a copy of NSC 5412. I understand that the Special Group indicated reluctance to release a copy of NSC 5412 to the Sprague Committee's staff and that it was decided that I should take the matter up directly with Mr. Sprague. Accordingly, after the meeting of the Sprague Committee yesterday I showed Mr. Sprague a copy of NSC 5412 explaining our reluctance to give it any broader dissemination than was absolutely essential. Mr. Sprague said that he could appreciate the importance of restricting access to this document and indicated that in all probability his Committee would have no further need for it. If he wishes his staff director, Mr. Nielsen, to familiarize himself with the contents of the directive, he will let me know.
3. I gather that the original interest of the Committee in this document arose in connection with a general investigation that they were making of the charter authority of the various agencies and departments of the Government in the information field. Presumably they wished to assure themselves that adequate authority exists to undertake any and all kinds of activities relevant to an effective over-all information program.

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John A. Gross
Senior Planning Officer
O/DDP

cc: DDCI

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